

### REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification to add the cross-reference heading/paragraph. No new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment and its entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants have canceled claims 2-3 and 31-32. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 30 to recite "A method of increasing crop yields, accelerating crop emergence, or accelerating crop maturity..." Support for these amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed, particularly in canceled claims 2-3 and 31-32. Claims 4, 9-10, 12, 15-16, 33-34, 36-40, and 45, have been amended to remove reference to canceled claims. Claims 12 and 18 have been amended to recite that the composition is free of protein. Support for their amendment can be found in paragraph 13 of the application as filed. No new matter has been added by virtue of these amendments and their entry is respectfully requested.

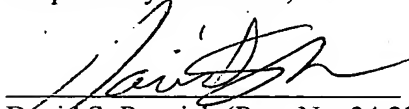
In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it is kindly requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney concerning the same to expedite prosecution of this application.

Entry of the foregoing and prompt and favorable consideration of the subject application on the merits are respectfully requested.

Fee deficiencies associated with the submission of this document may be charged to the NIXON PEABODY LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0850.

Date: 4/7/05

Respectfully submitted,

  
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